

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments to claims 9-11 and the following remarks.

Claims 9-19 are pending in this application. Claims 1-8 were canceled by a previous amendment. New claim 19 has been added. Claims 9-11 have been amended. No new matter has been added to the application. Support for the amendments to the claims and the new claim can be found at paragraphs [0014], [0015] and [0051] of the specification as well as Figs. 2, 3 and 6.

Applicant notes the Examiner's objection to the specification and to check for minor errors and to correct errors, which Applicant may become aware of during prosecution. Applicant further notes acceptance of the drawings filed on April 16, 2004 and the Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and receipt of the certified priority document.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murakami (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0139145) in view of Watanabe et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0041271). According to the Examiner, "Murakami discloses a manufacturing process comprising of press molding a glass substrate between an upper mold and lower mold without regulating the edge surface of the outer periphery portion of the glass ([0015]) and subsequently crystallizing or annealing the glass substrate ([0054]). Murakami further discloses steps for polishing and washing the glass substrate ([0058], [0059])."

Claim 9 has been amended to clarify the invention. The claim has been amended to recite that the glass is melted and flowed into the lower mold and that the molten glass is pressed between the lower and upper molds in such a manner that outer periphery portion of the glass is not processed. In other words, the peripheral portion or edge surfaces of the compressed glass between the molds is not subject to any regulating or further processing. Murakami treats the periphery after the pressing process. In paragraph [0059], Murakami discloses that the glass blank is cut and polished and that it is subjected to “outer-diameter processing.” In the present invention, there is no treatment at all of the outer periphery, i.e., the outer periphery portion is not processed. See Figs. 1, 4, 8, 14 and 15, and compare to Fig. 18 which includes a step of “outer” edge surface polishing between the first lapping and second lapping steps. In the process of the present invention, only the “inner” periphery edge surfaces are processed.

In addition to the above, the present invention requires that the glass be melted and flowed into the lower mold. This feature is not taught by Murakami. Murakami supplies a glob of glass into the lower mold in a softened state and presses it. The present invention does not use a glob of glass.

The Watanabe et al. reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Murakami. The Examiner only relies on Watanabe et al. as disclosing “a manufacturing method for a glass substrate comprising a first and second lapping processes ([0025]), a polishing process ([0026]), and a washing process ([0035]).” Watanabe et al. do not disclose melting glass and flowing it into the lower mold. Nor does the reference disclose or suggest making the glass blank and not processing the outer periphery.

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For the foregoing reasons, the rejection of claim 9 does not present a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murakami (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0139145) in view of Watanabe et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0041271), Nakamura et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0054976) and Sakamoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,764). Claim 10 has been amended in a similar manner as claim 9 to clarify the invention. The reasons set forth above to distinguish Murakami over claim 9 are equally applicable to claim 10 and are incorporated herein by reference. Watanabe et al, Nakamura et al. and Sakamoto taken alone or in combination fail to make up for the deficiencies of Murakami. None of these secondary references disclose or suggest a manufacturing process for press molding a glass substrate wherein a melted glass is flowed into a lower mold and the outer periphery is purposely left unprocessed. Watanabe et al. performs a lapping step “to improve ... shape accuracy” (paragraph [0025]). Nakamura et al. disclose that the outer circumference is “ground and chamfered” (paragraph [0043]). Sakamoto discloses that a “peripheral process and polishing process are performed to provide a flat finish on the ... edges of the disc” (col. 1, lines 25-31). Moreover, none of the secondary references disclose that the glass is melted and flowed into a lower mold.

For the foregoing reasons, the rejection of claim 10 does not present a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Claims 11-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 11, 12, 16 and 18 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Murakami (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0139145) in view of Sakamoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,764); claims 12-14 stand rejected as being unpatentable over

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Murakami and Sakamoto further view of Takagi et al. (WO 00/66504); claims 15 and 16 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Murakami and Sakamoto further view of Zou (U.S. Patent No. 6,627,566); and claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murakami and Sakamoto further in view of Nakamura et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0054976). Claims 12-18 are dependent on claim 11, which has been amended in a manner similar to claims 9 and 10 to clarify the invention. The reasons set forth above to distinguish Murakami over claims 9 and 10 are equally applicable to claim 11 and are incorporated herein by reference. Sakamoto, Takagi et al., Zou and Nakamura et al., taken alone or in combination with Murakami, do not make up for the deficiencies of Murakami. Sakamoto discloses that the outer periphery of the disc is processed (col. 1, lines 25-31). The reference does not suggest purposely leaving the outer periphery unprocessed. Also, the reference does not disclose melting the glass and flowing it into a lower mold. Takagi et al. likewise does not disclose purposely leaving the outer periphery unprocessed and flowing melted glass into a lower mold. Zou also does not disclose purposely leaving the outer periphery unprocessed and flowing melted glass into a lower mold. Nakamura et al. disclose that the outer circumference is processed. Further, the reference also does not disclose that the glass is melted and flowed into a lower mold.

For the foregoing reasons, the rejections of claims 11-18 do not present a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

New Claim 19

New claim 19 has been added to further limit claim 10 to add a new step of detecting the center of gravity of the glass substrate. Support for the claim can be found at paragraph [0049]].

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Since claim 10 is believed to be patentable for reasons set forth, *supra*, new claim 19 is believed to be patentable.

Conclusion

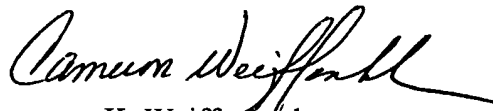
For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the claims 9-19 are patentable over the teachings of the prior art relied upon by the Examiner. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the claims is requested in light of the preceding amendments to the claims and remarks. Allowance of the claims is courteously solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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